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Date: 1/23/02 2:10pm **Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The "solution" is anything but a solution.

Russell Pavlicek said it best: "It is like the court ordering a convicted drug dealer to give out more free samples of heroin to underprivileged children to ensure that their poverty does not deprive them of the opportunity to become addicted."

Worse, Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profit companies. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "...(c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft (italics are mine) for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

This will kill SAMBA and other Open Source projects that use Microsoft calls. This is the only real competition to Microsoft, and they know it. How can the government protect the interests of the consumer and business users by giving Microsoft the right to set the criteria for what constitutes a business?

THIS IS MADNESS.

I, and others, implore you to rethink this setlement. At the very least, Micorsoft should be broken up. Let the Office Suite company compete and the Operating Systems company compete in the real world. Donald Naglich